THE CASE OF *Thomas Bushell*, of *Enston* in the County of *Oxon*, Esquire. TRULY STATED.

Together with his progresse in *Minerals*, and the desires of severall *Merchants* and others that are willing and ready to advance so good a work for the benefit of the Nation.

Humbly tendred to the serious consideration of the Honourable

House of COMMONS,

And all other persons in Authority, whether Civill or Martiall, that are desirous to advance the TRADE of the NATION, supply the Necessities of the Poor, by discovering the hidden Treasures of the Earth, preserve the lives of many poore Creatures from untimely death (who now are destroyed in their prime for petty Fellonies) which might otherwise be made serviceable to the COMMON-WEALTH.

London, Printed in the Yeere 1649.

THE CASE

OF

Thomas Bushell, of *Euston* in the County of Oxon, Esquire.

TRULY STATED.

Together with his progresse in *Mineralia*, and the desires of several Chambers and others that are willing and ready to advance so good a work for the benefit of the Nation.

Humbly tendred to the [illegible] of the Honourable

House of COMMONS,

And all other persons in Authority, whether Civil or Martiall, that are desirous to advance the TRADE of the NATION, supply the Necessities of the Poor, and discovering the hidden Treasures of the Earth, preserve the lives of many poore Creatures from untimely death, who now are destroyed in their prime for certain Elements, which [illegible]

COMMONWEALTH.

London, Printed in the Yeere 1659.

THat whereas the right and intereſt in and to all Mynes Royall, which are fountains of the Treaſure of the Nation, hath alwaies been an undoubted and legall right belonging to the Crown, and alwaies enjoyed by ſeverall *Letters Patents*, and Farms taken from the Crown, and to that purpoſe in all grants of Lands from the Crown, the ſaid Mynes either by expreſſe word, or elſe by implication of Law have alwaies been excepted and reſerved, for that it hath been found by experience, that the owners of Land, who receive a conſtant profit by the Herbage and other fruits of the Earth above ground, are ſeldome willing to adventure any part of their fortune for diſcovering the hid Treaſure in the bowels of the Earth: And whereas all Subjects were invited and encouraged by ſeverall Proclamations from his late Majeſty, and his Royall Father King *James*, to ſpend their times and pains in diſcovery of the ſaid Mines.

And I *Thomas Buſhell* having had many yeers relation to that great Secretary of Nature, the late Lord Chancellor *Bacon*; and thereby from him learnt many ſecrets in diſcovering and extracting *Minerals*; and that it was not onely the harmlieſt gain, and greateſt good to the Common-wealth, but the principall ſtudy and induſtry of the beſt bred perſons of other Nations, and the honourableſt improvement that this world is capable of, which was the firſt inducement that encouraged me to look after the ſearch thereof, being by good and learned Councell ſatisfied touching the legallity of the title, and alſo having found out a new way of diſcovering the concealed treaſure of the Earth, with more certainty and leſſe hazard, by means of a *Portugall* with whom I adviſed, and likewiſe was aſſured, that in the Mountains of *Broomfloid*, *Tallibont*, *Geginan*, *Combmerven*, & the *Darren*, there was great quantities of Silver & Lead, of which I informed his Majeſty, moving him to undertake the worke; but his Majeſty, for ſome reaſons to himſelfe known, declined the ſame, and commanded me (the Lady *Middleton* holding the ſaid Mynes Royall in *Wales*, by vertue of a Grant from King *James*) to buy the ſame, and to take the Mynes, which I accordingly did, paying unto the Lady *Middleton* 400 l. in hand, and 400 l. *per annum*, during the continuation of her intereſt therein, by vertue of the ſaid Grant; having firſt obtained from his ſaid Majeſty (upon my engagement to cut through the ſaid five Mountains, at My own charge, by a new way

of discovery) not onely a confirmation of the said Letters Patents, formerly granted to Sir *Hugh Middleton*, together with the severall Leases from the Governours, Assistants, and Society of the City of *London*, but also an absolute engagement upon his Majesties honour, and under his Signet and privy Seale, for the performance of any other Act of Grace, or assistance, that I or my Counsell should at any time desire, not being detrimentall to his Honour, or the Commonwealth, as by the ensuing Grant appeareth.

CHARLES R.

TRusty and welbeloved, We having taken into consideration your late Relation concerning your proceedings and intentions for the perfecting of that great work happily by you begun in our County of Cardigan *in Our Principality of* Wales, *concerning those hopefull Mynes by you discovered, approving well of your beginnings, proceedings, and intentions, We have thought good out of Our Royall disposition, to the encouraging of you and all such as are studious or industrious, to do to Us or Our Commonwealth profitable service, to assure you by these Our Letters that you shall not onely by Our protection peaceably enjoy the Contract and bargaine by you made with the Lady* Elizabeth Middleton, *concerning the said Mynes, with all things thereunto belonging: but also be well assured that both you, your Agents, Assistants, or Coadjuters shall from time to time have all the furtherance and favour We can vouchsafe to you or them. And for the better encouraging of you to go cheerfully and confidently on with the works, when your learned Counsell at the Law shall advise you to pray any further Act or Acts from Us whereby the designe may be advanc'd, and you and your Assistants secured, you shall finde Us ready to grant unto you any your lawfull desires: And in the mean time these Our Letters shall be a good and sufficient testimony of Our Royall intentions towards you, and Our good wishes to the prosperity of your undertakings. Given at Our Court at* Whitehall *under our Signet the three and twentieth day of* February, *in the twelfth yeer of Our Raigne.*

To Our trusty and welbeloved Subject and
Servant *Thomas Bushell*, Esqu.

This is entred in the Signet Booke
23 Febr. 1636.
Ja. Store.

And further to prevent all disturbances which might discourage my proceedings, His Majesty gave Warrant to Mr. Atturney generall to procced by information in the Starchamber against all such as should be so great enemies to their Country as to interrupt so publique a good. The copy of which Warrant followeth.

CHARLES R.

TRusty and welbeloved, We Greet you well. Whereas we have taken into our serious consideration, of what consequence the probability of increasing our Mynes Royall may prove to Us, and Our publique weale, being diligently searcht into. And for the better incouragement of Our loving Subjects and speedy pay of the poore Myners; Erected a Mynt in Our Castle of Aberustwith *and intrusted Our defence to the sole care and Government of Our Servant* Thomas Bushell, *whose industrious proceedings We so well like and approve of, that Our resolution is absolutely bent to further the prosecution of his endeavours on Our behalf, for the perfecting so good and pious a work: As We will and Command you that you take speciall care, that you speedily proceed in Our Court of Starchamber against such malicious persons as have, or doe goe about, not only to Eclypse Our Prerogative in Myneralls, and so frustrate Our Princely Pleasure in a Common good, for the benefit of their own private ends, by endeavouring to make those Mynes theirs, which hold Silver worth the refyning, and of Right belonging unto Us; But also such persons as have of late practised Combinations of Affronts against those intrusted by Us, and Our Mynes Royall to Our dishonour, As by the Certificates hereunto annexed will informe you; Authorizing you likewise for the better regulating of unruly Myners complained of, to draw up a Warrant for a Mannary Court fit for Our Royall signature, that We may be troubled no further. And this shall be your speciall Warrant. Given at Our Court at* Whitehall *this seven and twentieth day of* Febr. 1638.

To Our Trusty and welbeloved Sir *John Banks* Knight, Our Atturney Generall, or Sir *Edward Littleton* Knight, Our Sollitor Generall.

By vertue of which Grants from his Majesty, I being interessed in some of the Mynes Royall in *Wales*, *Devon*, and *Cornwall*, and being desirous to know what was a Myne Royall in the sence of Law, I

obtained the opinion of divers learned men in the Law, who declared their judgements therein, as followeth.

The Declaration of learned Lawyers, what a Myne Royall is, according to former Presidents.

Although the Gold or Silver contained in the base Mettall of a Myne in the Land of a Subject, be of lesse value then the baser Mettal; yet if the Gold or Silver doe countervaile the charge of the refining, or be of more worth then the base Mettal spent in refining it, this is a Myne Royall, and as well the base Metall as the Gold and Silver in it, belong by Prerogative to the Crown.

Sir *Ralph Whitfield*, his Majesties Serjeant at Law.
Sir *Edward Herbert*, Attourney Generall.
Oliver St. John Sollicitor.
John Glanvill, Serjeant.
John Wilde, Serjeant.
Rich Cressewell, Serjeant.
Orlando Bridgman, the Princes Sollicitor.

Robert Holborn.
John Hern.
Ed. Bagshaw.
Tho. Lane.
Rich. King.
Edmund Prideaux.
John Maynard.
Edward Hide.
John Glinne.
Charls Fulwood.
Harbottle Grimston.
John White.
George Peard.
John Franklin.
Richard Weston.
John Glover.
William Ellis.
Tho. Culpepper.
John Goodwin.
William Sandford.
John George.
James Haward.

THat shortly after my first entrance upon the Mynes in *Wales*, there were drowned 80. plumps, by reason of a great deluge of water then happening, whereby my undertaking became unlikely in the judgement of others, to produce any good effect, either to my selfe, or the Nation, that I was by my friends pitied, and by my foes laughed at; so that had I not duly considered the Justice of the undertaking in respect of God, the honour in respect of my Countrey, and the possibility in respect of my self, meeting with so many discouragements I had certainly desisted: but God, who is the Author and Finisher of all just undertakings, supported me under, and carryed me through that great work; and after nigh four years night and day spent in recovering of the said decayed Mynes, by the continued maintenance

nance and industry of five hundred Families, and the expence of about 7000l. as a reward of my hazard, expence and labour, brought me to reap the harvest of my hope, with discovering far distant by the Art of dyalling, where the Veines of Silver and Lead Ore sprang at the superficious of the Rocks, from the old Works in new places, which the malice or ignorance of some, that knowes not the generation of Mettals, nor the largenesse of their extent in creation, of depth and length, for mans use and Gods glory, would needs affirme that it was a new worke, and not a branch of the old Myne, formerly deserted through the said deluge of water; which, to confute their incredulity therein, I have been at 10000 li. charge, for to thred the supposed new Myne to the old worke, that others of my profession might as well be verst in the mystery of Myning, and encouraged therein, when all other hopes are frustrated of receiving profit from their deeper search for Mynerall treasure, as I was assured of the truth by the aforesaid L. Chancellor *Bacon*, and a Portugals description of such a Mynerall experiment.

Having made the discovery as aforesaid, and being satisfied in the Legality of my undertaking in respect of man, I endeavored to proceed therein according to the Law of God, striving to do unto others as I would they should do unto me. In order whereunto (having discovered a branch that issued from the old Myne (at the mountain of *Geginan*) I at the generall Assize held for the County of *Cardigan* (Judge *Turner* being on the Bench) publickly propounded unto the Gentry and Freeholders of the said County, being Owners of the Herbage, That if any of them would (by my example) adventure to discover the concealed Treasure in any Herbage, belonging unto them, at their own charge, they should (although the Grant was particular to me from his Majesty) enjoy the benefit of my Grant and Mint, for their encouragement therein; But if they did (in respect of the great charge and hazard) decline the same, That then, if afterward my endeavours were crouned beyond present probability or expectation, they would not envy or repine at that blessing which Gods providence as a reward of my labours, bestowed upon me: Further adding, That if, in the prosecution of the said work, I might commit any Trespasse upon the Herbage of any Gentleman, or others, I would give such answerable satisfaction as should by the next Justice of

Peace

Peace be judged double to the damage sustained by my trespasse thereupon: which promise I have constantly performed ever since my first undertaking: The Mynes most commonly being discovered in such Grounds as are worth not above three pence *per* Acre, which hath been proved upon a full Hearing this *Parliament*.

But to proceed.

Having by the mercy of God raised a considerable benefit, I did not cast about how to hide, but to improve my Talent for the good of my Native Country, which my gracious Maker had bestowed: As an evidence whereof I improved my ability for the recovering of severall drowned Mynes, and discovering other new branches of the old Mynes wrought by the Romans, (*viz.*) at the Mountains called *Tallibont*, *Broomfloid Combmervin*, *Geginan*, *Commustwith*, *Comsum Lock* and the Beacon hill of the *Daren*; by which means Trade was greatly encreased the Common wealth inriched, and many thousands of poor people relieved.

I applyed my self to finde out some more facile, lesse chargeable, and more expeditious way, (not only to discover new, but to recover the old decayed Mynes. In order whereunto I contrived a way of Addits, cutting levell through the lowest part of the Mountain, (and not beginning at the top, and sinking downward,) whereby the work was made more profitable, and lesse subject to the casualties of damps, and drowning, by preserving a constant water course, which was extream incident to the other way of myning, whereby most commonly the Myners were drowned out before they could attain half the riches of the Myne; and also avoyding the tedious and chargeable sinking of air-shafts, by conveying air through the Mountain many hundred Fathoms, with Pipe and Bellows, a way never before used by any undertakers, but now approved by all. And because I found that the wood of the Countrey was exceedingly wasted, by extracting the said Minerals; and that it could not be possible to afford sufficient supply, or if it did, it must be at such a rate as would devour the greatest part of the gain, besides the prejudice that would redound to the Countrey by the decay of Wood, being forc't to use such great quantities thereof; I made tryal of many expensive conclusions, and ceased not till I had contrived a way to make the defects of the Valley answer the fertile Mountain, by a supply of fuell; so that with Turf and Sea-coale

charked

charked, I have and doe refine the Silver and Lead without Wood and Charcoale, by which means the undertaking is of much more advantage as well to the Commonwealth as to the persons ingaged in the prosecution thereof.

His late Majesty having received sufficient testimony of the Premises, and being sensible of the great good that was like further to redound to the Nation, by my charge and industry, for my better incouragement, and to the end that others might be induced to joyn in assisting me in a worke, conducing so much to a generall good; and in pursuance of his promise made at my entry thereupon in the year 1636. did, by and with the advice of his Privy Councel, grant the Impost and Customs of all Lead that should be transported out of *England* and *Wales*, for the Rent of 6000 l. *per annum*, to be paid by me to His Majesty, his Heirs, &c. for 21 years: giving me also full power to deduct out of the said Rent all such sums of money as I had formly disburst for his service, with 8 l. *per Cent.* for the forbearance thereof.

His Majesty seeming to be convinced by his Councel at a full debate: That it was much better that I should enjoy the Customs for a certain Rent (though happily (some years) beneath the value thereof) for that by my charge and industry the staple Commodity of the Nation would be greatly encreased; so that if I, by the discovery of the concealed Treasure got 100 l. the Common-wealth would gain 1000 l. by the advancement of Trade, in respect of exportation and Importation, then that the said customs should be trusted to the generall Farmers or Collectors, who could adde nothing to that Nationall work (unlesse it were discouragement to me and my fellow undertakers;) and also that the Grant of the said Customs could not be lesse then 21 years, for that no man could be encouraged otherwise to adventure his estate in the promotion thereof, since a short Lease would be expired before a man could possibly obtain the fruit of his charge and hazard, a dozen yeares being many times spent before a Myne could be attained.

But in the unhappy difference betweene the King and Parliament I was forced by the power of the Parliaments Army, and necessitated to retire my selfe into the Island of *Lundy*, of which His Majesty made me Governour, where I remained peaceably, without

out doing prejudice to any, untill the Lord Generall in his Letter bearing date the 8 of *April*, 1646. sent me by a Drummer this following Order.

Die Sabbati, 12 *January*, 1645.

At the Committee of both Kingdoms at *Darby* house.

It is Ordered, That a Proposition be made to Mr. Bushell, *That if he will deliver up the Isle of* Lundy *this Committee will use their endeavors with the Parliament, that he may be restored to his Interest in the Silver Mynes.*

GUALTER FROST Secretary to the same Committee.

Together with which Order his Excellency sent a safe Conduct for me to come to the Head Quarters to treat with the Lord *Say*, or with such as he should appoint touching the said Proposition made by the said Committee. Some moneths after the said Committee sent another Order, thereby promising their Endevours to the Parliament, for the taking off the Delinquency of the Souldiers that were with me in *Lundy*, &c.

After receipt whereof (having first obtained his Majesties consent for the Resignation thereof,) I informed my Lord *Say* by Letter, That I could willingly yeeld obedience to the said Orders, if the sight thereof would relieve my losses, or cancell my Obligations; But since I could receive neither satisfaction or security by those, I proposed, That the Honorable Committee of both Kingdoms would be pleased to procure the restitution of my estate with all other immunities thereunto belonging by an Ordinance of Parliament, that thereby I might be enabled to pay my debts, and prosecute that publike employment which I had formerly undertaken, and that before my Surrender thereof, otherwise I should be constrained to retain it as the refuge of my fortune, &c.

Many Messages, Letters and Replies passed for some months about the Surrender thereof, after which it pleased the honorable Parliament to grant my desire, as appears by the ensuing Order.

Die Sabbati, 10 July, 1647.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, That upon the delivery up of the Isle of Lundy to the Lord Viscount Say *and* Seal,

or

That ſince his late Majeſty, in purſuance of his ſaid promiſe made at my entrance upon the Mines in the year 1636. being convinced by his Councel at a full debate: That it was much better that I ſhould enjoy the Cuſtoms for a certain Rent (though happily (ſome years) beneath the value thereof) for that by my charge and induſtry the ſtaple Commodity of the Nation would be greatly encreaſed; ſo that if I, by the diſcovery of the concealed Treaſure, got 100 l. the Nation would gain 1000 l. by the advancement of Trade, in reſpect of exportation and Importation, then that the ſaid cuſtoms ſhould be truſted in common to Farmers or Collectors, who could adde nothing to that Nationall work (unleſſe it were diſcouragement to me and my fellow undertakers;) and alſo that the Grant of the ſaid Cuſtoms could not be leſſe then 21 years, for that no man could be encouraged otherwiſe to adventure his eſtate in the promotion thereof, ſince a ſhort Leaſe would be expired before a man could poſſibly obtain the fruit of his charge and hazard, a dozen yeares being many times ſpent before a Myne could be attained: for theſe and the other reaſons before ſpecified, his Majeſty was pleaſed to ſever the ſaid Cuſtom of Lead from the great Farm, and to grant the ſame to me and my Aſſigns for the term of twenty one years, for the Rent of 6000 l. *per annum*, giving me power thereby to deduct out of the ſaid Rent, all ſuch ſums of money as I had formerly diſburſed for his ſervice, with an allowance of 8 l. *per cent*. for the forbearance thereof, as by the ſaid Grant appeareth: By vertue of which Grant, as by my Councell I am adviſed, I have a legall intereſt in the ſaid Cuſtoms during that term.

And foraſmuch as the Cuſtom, which formerly was 2 l. 8 s. *per* Fodder, hath been by the Parliament, for the good of the Commonwealth reduced to 20 s. *per* Fodder; And for that the quantity of Lead now tranſported, is nothing near ſo much as was ſhip'd and tranſported formerly, as by the certificate of Cuſtoms annexed may appear: That therefore, although I might juſtly claim the benefit of the ſaid Grant from His Majeſty by vertue of the former recited Order of Parliament, which provideth, that I ſhould upon the performance of the Conditions therein ſpecified, be reſtored to all my Eſtate, with ſuch right as I, or my Aſſigns, had, or ought to have had, in the Mines, &c. Yet declining my Intereſt herein, by vertue of the

ſaid Grant, I humbly ſubmit my ſelf to the Judgement of Parliament, not doubting their readineſſe to give all juſt encouragement to my endeavors, which ſhall tend onely to the advancement of the publique good.

In purſuance whereof I humbly propoſe and deſire.

That foraſmuch as by my charge, vaſt expence and hazard (being thereby damnified many thouſands of pounds) the Trade of Lead being a Staple Commodity, hath been, and is likely to be advanced, That therefore I may be permitted to farme the ſaid Cuſtoms of Lead, for the term of years aboveſaid, paying 2500 l *per annum* for the ſame; which according to the due computation of the quantities of Lead tranſported for two ſeven years laſt paſt (abating the reducement of the Cuſtoms by the Parliament, from 2 l. 8 s. *per* Fodder, to 20 s. *per* Fodder, together with the deductions and allowance of the charge of the Collection thereof, which amounted to above 1000 l. *per annum*) as a Rent ſufficiently proportionable, as by the Certificates from the Farmers and Commiſſioners, who by order of the Committee of the Navy have examined and certified the ſame, may fully appear; the ſubſtance of which certificates, for better ſatisfaction, are here inſerted.

It appeareth by the Certificate from the Farmers of the Cuſtoms herewith preſented, that there was tranſported in An. 1634. *and from thence till the end of the year* 1640. (*being ſeven years*) 40772 *Fodders, three quarter of Lead, and no more. For which, if there had been received* (*as the Book of Rates now allows*) *onely* 20 s. per *Fodder, the Cuſtoms of Lead for theſe ſeven years, would then have amounted unto* 40772 l. 15. s. 0. d.

Which being divided into ſeven parts, it appeareth that the Cuſtoms did yeeld yearly ——— l. s. d. 5824. 13. 6

It appeareth alſo by the ſaid Certificates, that in the year 1641. *and to the end of the year* 1646. (*being ſix years, there was tranſported* 25483. *Fodders and a quarter of Lead, and no more. For which, if there had been received onely* 20 s. per *Fodder, the* Cuſtoms *for thoſe ſix years, would have amounted unto* 25483 l. 5 s. *which being divided into ſix parts, it appeareth that the* Cuſtoms *did for that time yeeld yearly* (*beſides above a twentieth part that payes double* Cuſtoms) ——— l. s. d. 4247. 4. 2.

But in case it shall not be judged convenient for me to Farm the same, that then I may be permitted to enjoy the Lead and Oar Custom-free, which I already have, or hereafter shall (at my own cost, or the charges of such as shall adventure with me) discover out of new Mynes, or such as have been drowned and discerted for many Ages: And to the end that a work of such Nationall advantage may not be retarded, nor my self and other undertakers discouraged; but rather, by all just wayes and means enabled to prosecute and carry on the same: I further humbly propose, That for the future, the Parliament would be pleased to Ordain, That all persons convicted of petty Felonies may be employed in the said Mynes, giving sufficient security for their true service therein, untill such time be exspired as shall be adjudged meet for the expiation of their Crimes; by which means I conceive many poor Creatures will not onely be preserved from untimely death, and removed from their idle company, but being forced to work, be made serviceable to the Common-wealth, and sensible of their own follies; the charge greatly lessned to those who venture their fortunes in the said undertakings, for the reasons following:

WHereas it hath been the custom in all Kingdoms, States and Commonwealths, where Mines are hapily discovered to give all encouragement to Miners and Adventures in Minerall Works, by the Grant of severall Charters, Franchises, and Priviledges, whereby they might the more diligently attend the same; and in pursuance thereof so to be governed and ordered under a particular jurisdiction in all places; as *Georgius Agricola*, who was the most expert Mineralist of these latter Ages, and himselfe King of the Mines of all *Germany*, doth testifie and affirm; as the Stanaries heretofore in *England* in some sort were. And whereas the late King *Iames*, who was truly stiled, *The King of peace, and mirror of mercy*, was graciously pleased, for saving the Lives of such Malefactors as were condemned to Death by the Law for Petty Felonies, being such as were not any Scandall to the Church or State, nor had imbrued their hands in blood, to admit their Transportation by the *East India* and *Virginia* Companies, for their furtherance of Plantations: In which action he did also cast his eyes upon the warrantable

rantable proceedings and presidents of other most famous Princes in the like kinde; as the late Queen *Eliz.* who built certain Galleys of purpose for imployment of such kind of Offendors, of strong and able bodies, as might attend her memorable designs at Sea, especially upon all sudden and resolute Enterprizes, it being the usuall way and course not onely of the ancient Romans, to adjudge persons condemned for notorious crimes to work in the mettall Mines, but also of other Christian Princes, as the King of *Spain* both for the supply of his Galleys against the *Turks* and *Moors*, and especially for the Enlargement of his *Indian* Mines of Gold, Silver, Quicksilver, and the like; and his Conquests of *Moloco*, *Goa Ormus*, and other rich and populous Islands; The King of *France*, for his Galleys of *Marsellis*; The State of *Venice*; The Duke *Florence*, who by such kinde of saved Offendors built *Ligorn* (one of the most famous Sea Ports within the *Straits*.) In all which States and Services, divers of these Malefactors, by good encouragement, have sought not so much by surviving as by their incredible Labors, effecting matters otherwise held invincible, to obliterate their former Ignomies by merit of Reward. And whereas in this Commonwealth too many such Offendors are most untimely cut off, in their best abilities of Service; so there is means of employment for such persons, to redeem their lost Reputation, by endeavoring to do faithfull Service for their Countrys honour, and the Commonwealths good, in the happy work of discovering Minerals out of the barren Rocks: My humble Suit therefore is, That you would be pleased, out of all these weighty considerations, and beneficiall consequences, tending so much to the good of the Commonwealth, to grant me power for the choosing of such severall persons out of the Prisons in this Nation, as are and shall be condemned for small Offences, and of able serviceable bodies, by the approbation of the Judges; as shall implore your mercy, to be imployed by me in the works of the Mines Royall, they giving security for their good behaviour, with such limitation of time, and allowance for their sustentation, as to your Wisdoms shall be thought fit; that by their dutifull and laborious performance therein, they may afterwards come into the happinesse of your Pardon for their former Offences.

Thus

Thus having given you a perfect Narrative of my Riſe, Growth, and Progreſſe in this common good; together with the ſum of my deſires, as matter of encouragement in the further proſecution thereof, I will onely adde ſome few particulars to manifeſt the advantage that would by the ſaid Grant, redownd immediately thereupon, to the Honour and Profit of the Nation, and then leave the premiſes to the ſerious conſideration of the Parliament, & all others that deſire to further a work of ſuch publique concernment.

As for example.

1. If in three or four thouſand Tuns of Lead yeerly raiſed, (which for ſome yeeres laſt paſt have been, and now is) the Trade and Cuſtomes both by Tranſportation and Importation, be kept up and encreaſed to many thouſand pounds profit yeerly, then it muſt be inferred (and cannot be denied) That if double and treble the quantity be ſo raiſed, by the charge and practice of my ſelfe and fellow-undertakers, The reſult thereof muſt of neceſſity be equivalent, and encreaſe the value of the Cuſtoms imported; whereby the Nation is advantaged, and the Adventurers encouraged.

I deſire to propound this Quære, Whether

2. If the concealed riches of our Nation ſo diſcovered (with leſſe danger and greater honour) be not much more advantagious for the inhabitants to ſeek them (by Gods providence) at home, then to imbark their thoughts and Eſtates upon the hopes of Forraign parts to enrich themſelves, by advancing the Trade of another Countrey, ſince by the practique experience of a private man, the generall Charge of a Miners profeſſion is reduced to half the valne of former diſburſments, and as much more certainty in the way of diſcoveries.

Tho. Buſhell.

Theſe conſiderations, and my late practique experience at *Combmartin* in *Devon*, did not onely invite the worthy Merchants of *Barnſtable* and *Bydifford* to write this enſuing Letter unto me, for Tranſporting all my Lead and Oar Fraight-free in ſtead of Ballaſt; but alſo divers other Merchants, by their good example, were induced to adventure upon my having a Farm of the Cuſtoms, according to the proportion of my Rent abovementioned, the ſeverall ſums hereafter expreſſed, as to a publique work, and in hope of enriching themſelves by the ſame providence.

SIR,

SIR,

SInce, you have been pleaſed at your own great charge to diſcover thoſe deſerted Works at *Combmartin* for the publique good of our Countrey: And whereas you are intereſſed in the Mynes of *Wales*, which furniſh you both with Lead and Lead-Oar, Theſe are to requeſt you, to be pleaſed to make this our Harbour partaker of the Benefits may proceed therein, and what we buy not from you for ready moneys, we ſhall be ready to tranſport for you Fraight-free inſtead of Ballaſt, you rendring it aboard to all ſuch Ports, as our Veſſels ſhall commerce withall: In ſo doing, we ſuppoſe the reſult thereof will more properly conduce to your hopefull proceedings in the ſaid works of *Combmartin*, which we wiſh all happy ſucceſſe, and remain

Your Loving friends,

Barnſtable 6 Octob. 1648.

Richard Harris.
William Leigh.
George Shurt.
Robert Dennis.
Iohn Tucker.
Thomas Horwood.
Anthony Benny.
William Palmer.
Lyonel Becher.
Richard Harris.
William Nottel.
Iohn Down.
Walter Tucker.
R. Flemming.
Richard Medford.
William Wood.
Francis Newton.
Edward Flemming.
Tho. Cox.
Nathaniel Fiſherleigh.
Robert Frayn.

WHereas *Thomas Buſhel* Eſquire, Farmer of the Mynes Royall, is willing and ready to adventure his pains, and a great part of his Eſtate, in diſcovering of the deſerted Mynes of *Combmartin* in *Devonſhire*, and in cutting through divers Mountains in *Wales*, or elſewhere in *Darbiſhire*, for the diſcovering of Silver and Lead Mynes. And whereas by his Relation, he is in good hopes that he ſhall get an act of Parliament freeing the ſaid Mines, ſo to be diſcovered and recovered, from payment of any Cuſtoms for twenty one yeeres, or elſe that he ſhall become Tenant to all the Cuſtomes of

England

England and *Wales*, at such a Rent as they are now worth, for which he hath already Letters Patents from his Majesty: Now for that the said *Thomas Bushell*, doubting his owne Estate will not be sufficient to go through with, and perfect these chargeable Adventures; and being contented to admit of such persons as will adventure with him in the Mynes, to have a proportionable charge of the profits thereof Custome free. We whose Names are hereunder written, being desirous to forward the publique good of this Kingdom, and hoping (by Gods Providence) to gain profit to our selves, do hereby declare, That so soon as the said Mr. *Bushell* shall by an Act of Parliament have the said Customs granted unto him, we will each of us according to our severall Subscriptions, lay down and pay the said severall summes of money, to be imployed by the said Mr *Bushel* in the said Mines as aforesaid; to the end we may have a proportionable share of the profits arising by Adventures, as aforesaid.

We whose Names are underwritten, will adventure in the businesse abovesaid, as followeth:

Martin Iefferson	800 li.	*George Goodman*	300 li.
William Parkhurst	300 li.	*Iames Ingram*	300 li.
Timothy Lumm	500 li.	*Robert Mees*	500 li.
Francis Ottley	500 li.	*Henry Archibold*	300 li.
Henry Seley	500 li.	*Edmund Goodyer*	500 li.

Many others have profered and promised to adventure, if the Customs be granted as desired.

Which publique Service was likewise a great motive to his Excellency, and the Lord Viscount *Say* and *Seal*, to direct the Letter of Request, at followeth:

To the Honourable William Lenthal *Esq. Speaker of the Honourable House of Commons.*

Mr Speaker,

I Formerly granted safe conduct unto *Thomas Bushel* Esquire, who had the command of the Isle of *Lundy*, to come hither to Treat concerning the surrender of that place, and he like a Gentleman truly performed on his part such Articles as were agreed on; since which time he hath been very industrious in finding out of Lead Mines, which are like to produce

good

good quantities of Silver, proof whereof you may please to see, and having seen a Letter under the hands of the Merchants of *Barnstable*, to further his endeavors for the publique; I could not but out of a sence I have the generall good will be exceedingly advantaged by the way of his industry, humbly offer it as a request of mine, That Mr. *Bushel* may have for his better incouragement, your best assistance in restoring him to all his Estate, according to mine agreement, and the Order of both houses, dated the Tenth of *July*, 1647. And although by that agreement and Order, he humbly conceives he may justly claim the Customs of Lead of *England* and *Wales*, at such Rent as the same were formerly granted him by Letters Pattents from His Majesty under the Great-Seal for a good Term of years unexpired, yet he hath been, and still is contented to decline that claime, and submit to such a reasonable Rent for the same, as the Committee of the Revenue shall propose; And in pursuance hereof, the then Farmors of the Customes have by Order of the said Committee of the Navy (as I am informed) returned a certificate, whereby the true values of the said Customs of Lead may appear; I have therefore thought fit, humbly to recommend the said Certificate, together with the Petition of the Myners of *Derby*-shire and *Devon*, and his Propositions for the publique good; and make it my request that he may speedily Farm the said Customs of Lead, during the time of his former Grant, whereby his adventures for discovering Minerals, and recovering the deserted works of this Kingdom, may be incouraged to joyn with him in so common a good, least hee be inforced to leave this Realm, and so good a work perish by his absence: For truly Sir, this last discovery of his in the County of *Devon*, with the port of other his proceedings, hath almost perswaded him to become an Adventurer; Who remains,

Queenstreet 14.
Martii, 1648.

Your humble Servant,
THO: FAIRFAX.